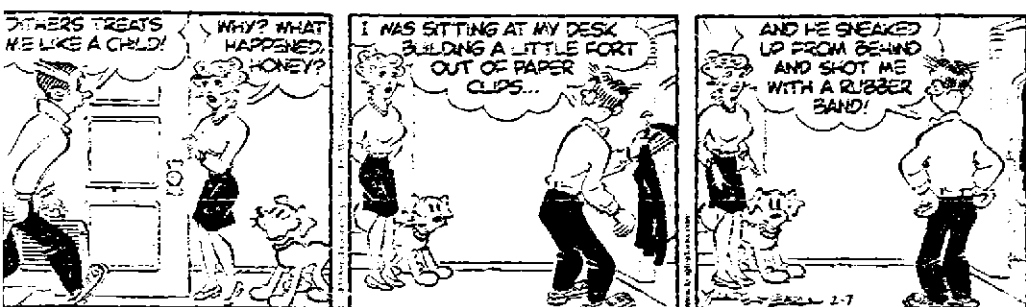


## BLONDIE



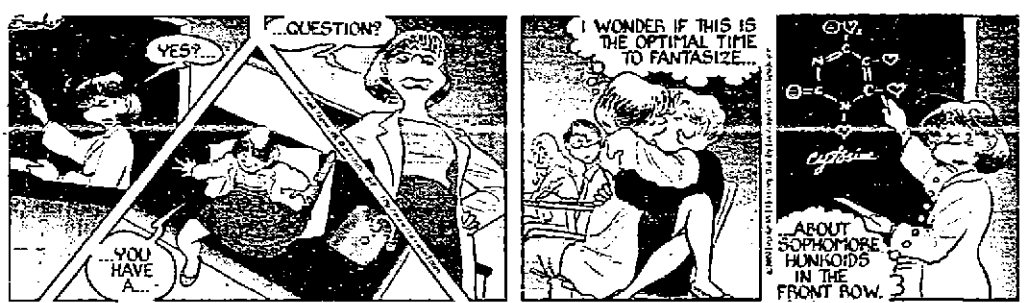
## SALLY FORTH



## THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



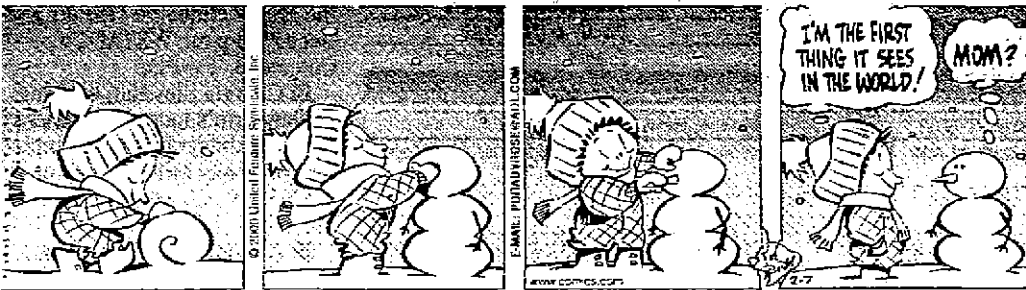
## CHICKWEED LANE



## ANDY CAPP



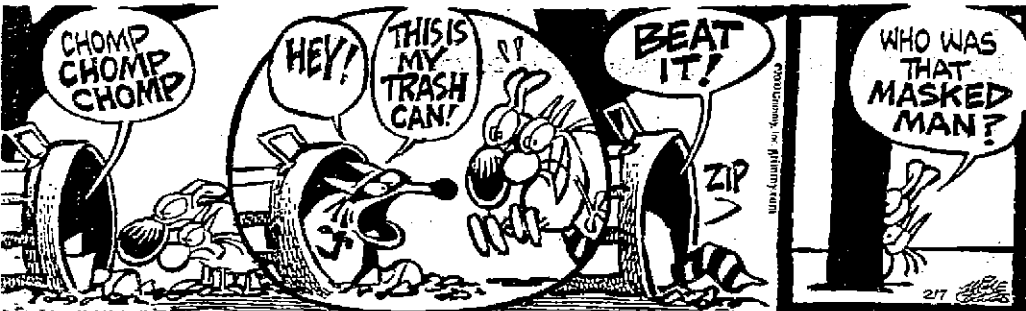
## ROSE IS ROSE



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



## MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



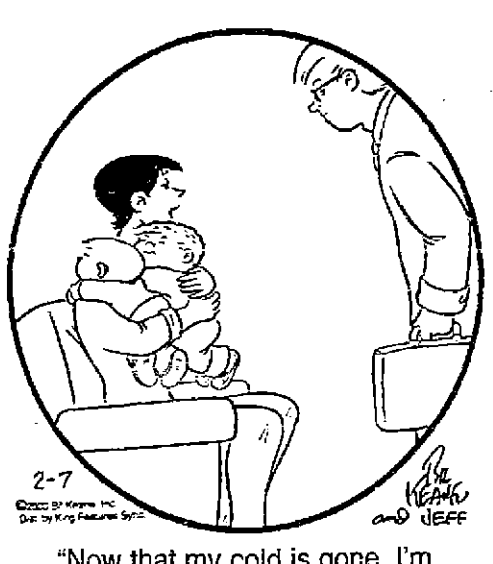
## DILBERT



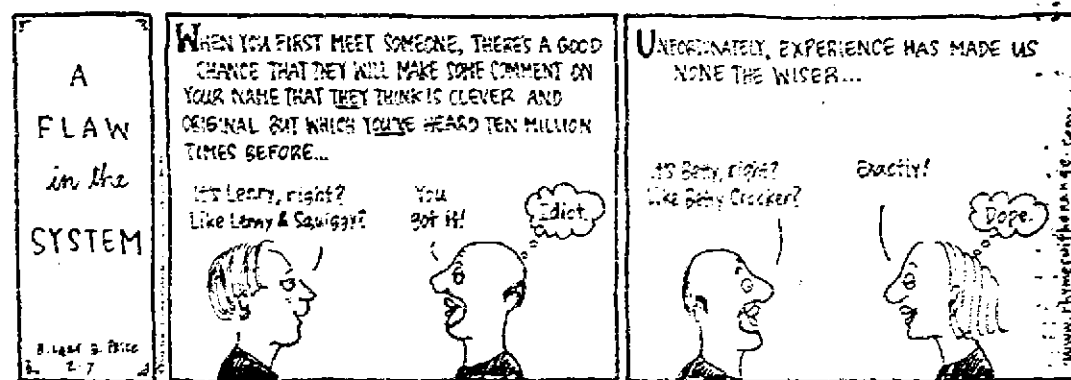
## DENNIS THE MENACE



## FAMILY CIRCUS



## RHYMES WITH ORANGE



## RALPH



## Today's Birthdays

Actor Eddie Bracken is 80. Country singer Wilma Lee Cooper is 79. Author Gay Talese is 68. Blues singer-musician Earl King is 66. Actor Miguel Ferrer is 46. Reggae musician Brian Travers (UB40) is 41. Actor James Spader is 40. Country singer Garth Brooks is 38. Rock musician David Bryan (Bon Jovi) is 38. Actor-comedian Chris Rock is 34. Actor Jason Gedrick is 33.

## I NEED HELP



## SCRABBLE

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|   |   |   |   |   |   |                   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------------------|
| E | L | W | F | L | O | 3rd Letter Type   |
| Y | E | R | L | A | D | Double Word Score |
| T | L | A | R | A | S | 2nd Letter Double |
| H | E | E | T | F | L | 2nd Letter Double |

PAR SCORE 135-145  
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL  
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and DSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW © 2000, United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

For solution, see Classified.

## WORD SLEUTH

## CAT—

CKHEBYVSPMJHEBY  
VTQOLIWGDBYWTRP  
MKIFDBHYWUSQOMK  
IFRDBEIZXWTUSQO  
NKLAWSSLJYHHFDC  
AYWLLKUVLTSGQP  
NLKAIGEEIOIHOIF  
ECNATKRSBMPZDYF  
WDTVTUSUSADADRQ  
PNUMELJOBFINNH  
EDGDRIBHRENNACS

Saturday's unlisted clue: CARDS  
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.  
Monday's unlisted clue: A BRIEF SLEEP

|           |        |         |          |
|-----------|--------|---------|----------|
| And dog   | Family | Island  | Tails    |
| And mouse | Fight  | Litter  | Walk     |
| Bird      | Gut    | Scanner | Whiskers |
| Burglar   | House  | Skill   |          |

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For solution, see Classified.

## HOROSCOPE

For Tuesday, Feb. 8

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Doing something out of the ordinary today could result in disaster.  
**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Holding your emotions inside won't do you any good today.  
**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Your career should be your top priority today.  
**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Positive energy surrounds you today as the moon moves into Pisces.  
**LEO** (July 23 to Aug. 22) Try to avoid dealing with financial issues.  
**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Live and let live. Do your best not to let your judgmental attitude ruin someone else's positive thinking.  
**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Constant interruptions and cancellations are unavoidable.  
**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Romance is on the horizon as the moon moves into Pisces today.  
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Try not to start any new projects today because you'll most likely spend the majority of your time looking for lost items.  
**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Spend your time writing poetry or creating artwork for your eyes only. Listen to your muse.  
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Make sure you've balanced your checkbook accurately before making a major purchase.  
**PISCES** (Feb. 19 to March 20) Splurge on something you've wanted for a long time.

## ACES

By Bobby Wolff

A careful East wins his diamond ace and will count possible defensive winners before he leads to trick two. He knows West's diamond deuce is singleton, but more important is his trump holding. The trump ace is a key, but just as significant is his third trump. His three-card holding tells him that West has only two trumps. Should East return a diamond immediately to give West a ruff? If he does, West scores his ruff, but South scores his game. When East gets his trump ace, West cannot ruff another diamond, and it's too late to shift to spades. South would win East's spade shift, draw trumps, and claim 10 winners, discarding his spade queen on one of dummy's diamonds. Therefore, when holding A-x-x of trumps, East must look for a fourth defensive trick elsewhere. Since the most likely possible fourth winner is in spades, East shifts to spades at trick two. This develops a spade winner for West, and as soon as East wins his trump ace, he gives West a delayed ruff, and the defenders win four tricks. What if East had only A-4 in trumps instead of A-4-2? Then it is odds-on that West can score two ruffs. And instead of shifting to spades at trick two (South might have A-K), East returns a diamond to collect four winners for one down.

**NORTH**  
♠ J 6  
♥ K 10 9 8 5  
♦ Q 10 8 5  
♣ A 10

**WEST**  
♠ K 9 7 4 2  
♥ 5 3  
♦ 2  
♣ Q 9 8 3 2

**EAST**  
♠ 10 6 5 3  
♥ A 4 2  
♦ A 7 6 3  
♣ J 4

**SOUTH**  
♠ A Q  
♥ Q J 8 7  
♦ K J 4  
♣ K 7 6 5

Vulnerable: North-South  
Dealer: South

The bidding:

South West North East  
1NT 2♣ 2♦ Pass  
2♥ Pass 4♥ All pass

Opening lead: Diamond deuce

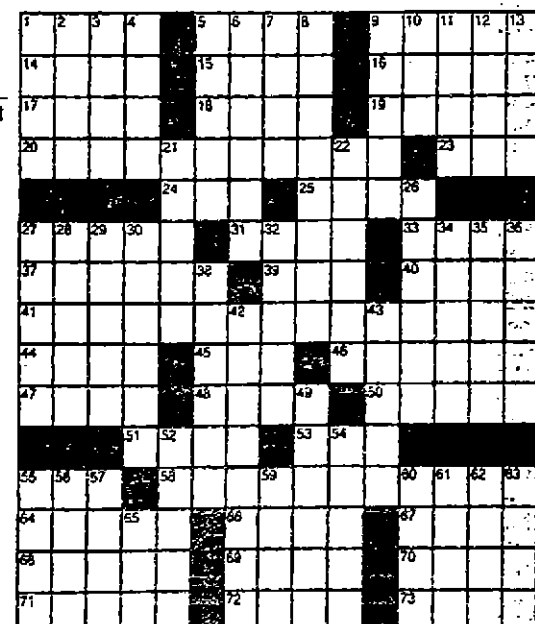
## N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 1227

**ACROSS**  
1 Deep sleep  
5 Reminder of a swordfight  
9 Customs  
14 Milky gem  
15 "Catch a Falling Star" singer, 1958  
16 Plain as day  
17 Telescope part  
18 Famous  
19 Word before hop or top  
20 Shakespearean play with the clown  
23 Do tailoring  
24 Computer giant  
25 U.C.L.A. quarterback, perhaps  
27 Gave a hoot  
31 Hardly a neatnik  
33 Café additive  
37 Break in the action  
39 Have bills  
40 Four-star  
41 Soap opera set in Oakdale  
44 Hipbones  
45 Mount  
46 Rushmore pres.  
47 Advertising sign  
48 Heal  
50 Arctic explorer  
51 City west of Tulsa  
53 Reuters competitor  
55 Met display  
58 Faulkner novel  
64 Injures with a horn  
66 British blue blood  
67 Rev. Roberts  
68 Woodstock or the Super Bowl  
69 TV's Nick at  
70 Zero, on a court  
71 Down at the heels  
72 "bien!"  
73 Pants part

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ORBIT COPA NARC  
NOELS USER ALOR  
ROOSERLING TENS  
ATTA OPEN CURDS  
MOI CLARABARTON  
PUMMEL ODESSA  
STEAL REAR  
SISSYSPACEK  
PEST AMITY  
PATRIA GAUCHE  
ISAACNEWTON KEA  
CHIVE ROHE TETS  
KIWI ANWARSADAT  
LEAN DIET ABUSE  
ERNE ZEDS DUPED



Puzzle by Gregory E. Paul

34 Main line from the heart  
35 Kind of tube  
36 Cantankerous  
38 Beturbaned wise men  
42 Not insubordinate  
43 Lukewarm  
49 Eva Perón's maiden name  
52 Spiteful  
54 Gomer and others  
55 Census data  
56 Gad about  
57 Shoe stiffener  
59 Retreat  
60 The sun, in sunnyside up  
61 Vitamin tablet supplement  
62 Where the congregation sits  
63 Ticked-pink, feeling  
65 Tackle's teammate

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone: 1-800-420-5556 (95¢ per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS.